The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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Can Anti-Union Coal Owners Again Corrupt Public Mind?

Will the coal operators of northern West Virginia precipitate another civil war—so common in that state—to stop employes joining the miners' union?

Will the country witness the usual campaign of frenzied propaganda that is intended to take the popular mind from machine guns, evictions, guard rule and other well-known forms of West Virginia anti-unionism?

This organizing campaign is not an ordinary trade union movement. The United Mine Workers do not have to appeal to non-unionists of that section to join them. The organized workers are aiding and defending men who revolt against a serfdom that has been fastened on them.

"Yellow dog" contracts, company stores, low wages, and no one to represent them in the weighing of coal has forced these workers to call for union aid.

Behind this struggle looms the other important query:

Shall anti-union coal operators dominate this industry?

This element has brought representative government into disrepute. Too often the machinery of justice has been an auxiliary to these West Virginia corporations. During this entire winter men, women and children in that state have lived in tents and crude shacks rather than accept a serfdom these employers would impose.

The guard system and machine guns, the company store and other evils are all a matter of record. If not removed, this fever spot on our industrial body will eventually spread. Its malignant influence can not be confined within the jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers.

A worker who demands American living standards can not compete with peonized West Virginia. If that section is to be a factor in setting wage rates, the United Mine Workers must accept the challenge. They must defend those who would associate with them.

The nation's coal industry is threatened by men who reduce wages, destroy working conditions and establish serfdom as completely as in the middle ages.

Coal industry evils are many and varied. Too many mines, with high cost and low cost properties; a surplus of workers lured into this industry; freight rates and numerous other issues are woven into a problem whose roots reach deep into our economic and social life.

The anti-union coal operator would solve this intricate problem by reducing wages, smashing the miners' union and using the machinery of state to enforce his will.

Because a solution of the mining industry affects every person, let well disposed citizens note well the northern West Virginia situation before he accepts the operators' propaganda.

Served Meat Barons Many Years; Workers Tricked Out Of Pensions

Chicago, April 4.—Circuit Court Judge Ryner has denied all pension rights to several hundred former employes of Morris & Co., meat packers. This concern was absorbed two years ago by the Armour concern. The latter plant, it is claimed, is now controlled by eastern bankers.

The Morris company operated a pension system for its employes, many of whom declined better positions because they were assured this life pension. When the Armour people took over the Morris plant the pensions were discontinued and 400 faithful employes awakened to the fact that they were tricked.

While the Morris management was given wide praise for its "philanthropy," no mention was made of the fact that each worker contributed 3 per cent of his earnings. This money was returned to the trustful workers.

Judge Ryner has ruled that the Armour company is not compelled to continue the pensions, although the plaintiffs produced evidence that the Morris company promised them life pensions and emphasized the benefits of joining the pension fund.

Old employes testified that they had been denied wage increases because of the pension. They said they were threatened with a loss of pension during a strike for improved conditions and were held to their jobs by representations that Morris' millions were behind pledges as sound as government bonds.

In a brief filed with Judge Ryner, Attorney Armstrong declared that the failure of the Morris pension fund is an industrial tragedy.

"It is a drama," the plaintiffs' attorney said, "that honors the abiding love of man for wife and children—for it shows his slaving for a score and more of years, continuously, in blood and filth and slime, so that they may not be brought to want. It is a drama, however, with a fiendish jest—for it, Tantalus like, shows glittering promises to have been mere chimera, mockery to the confiding and hopeful and Dead sea apples in fulfillment.

"But, alas! It is a drama without a happy ending—for the curtain is rung down upon a pitiful and cruel tragedy, hiding honor besmirched, confidence beguiled and betrayed, trust violated, hope dead, old age, widowhood and infancy on the way to the poorhouse, and the villain of the piece making his bows at the footlights as he trades the property so built up by labor in the hope of promised permanent rewards for $30,000,000. The picture is not a pleasing one, but it is, we believe, true, and the finale and the question is: Is the arm of the law impotent? Has equity neither remedy nor relief?"

Physical Defects Of Children Increased By Forced Labor

New York, April 4.—One-half of the working children under 14 and 15 years of age studied by the state bureau of women in industry have physical defects aggravated by their work.

The study included 412 working boys and girls in this city who are under 16. It was the first effort in this state to find out the relationship between the physical condition of working children and the physical requirements of their employment.

Almost one-half of the children entered industry because money was needed at home, but a second very large group went to work because they were dissatisfied with what school had to offer them. The desire which many of these children have for more education is emphasized by the fact that in addition to working every day, almost one-eighth of the children attended night school.

"On the health side, the number of physical defects for each child average 2.4," said State Industrial Commissioner Hamilton. "It is a serious finding that children under 16 years of age begin their industrial career with uncorrected physical defects. It is of even greater significance to learn that these defects are being accentuated and made worse by the requirements of the jobs the children are on."

NO INDUSTRIAL TRUCE TO SUPPORT LOW PAY

London, England, April 4.—Trade unionists are asking Prime Minister Baldwin to explain his recent plea for an "industrial truce" between capitalists and workers.

England is on the verge of one of the most extensive wage movements in its history. Practically every basic industry and calling is facing increased wage demands by workers who insist that they have carried more than their share of the burden. The unionists show that in the last four years they have been forced to make an enormously disproportionate contribution toward the upbuilding of British industry.

In 1921, the first year of the trade slump, there was a total reduction of over £6,000,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 7,000,000 workers; in 1922 a further reduction of £4,500,000 was enforced, and in 1923 the workers accepted another slash of £1,000,000.

These totals do not include agricultural workers, domestic workers, shop employes and others. It is estimated that during these three years between £800,000,000 and £1,000,000,000 in wages were taken from workers who are worse off today than before the war.

"Is it Mr. Baldwin's view that the revival of British industry can take place only if the workers consent to go on working at the present low wages?" asks the Labor Press Service, issued by the British Trades Union Congress and the Labor party.

"When Mr. Baldwin pleads with the unions to face facts, to recognize that the prosperity of British industry depends upon harmony between employers and workers and to be willing to co-operate in the effort to restore prosperity in British industry, he must not be surprised if the trade union leaders ask him to explain more clearly what he means by this plea.

"In short, on what terms are the trade unions asked to consent to a truce? It is difficult to believe that even Mr. Baldwin can seriously hope that the impending wage conflict can be averted by appeals of the kind he has recently made.

"Wages must go up. There can be no truce on the basis of existing conditions."

TEXTILE INDUSTRY WRECKED BY GREED AND INEFFICIENCY

New York, April 4.—The federal child labor amendment has been used by unfair textile manufacturers to cover up inflated capitalization, waste, inefficiency, cheap substitutes and poor working conditions that have brought this industry to its present low standard, according to Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America.

In 1916 the mills of Fall River were capitalized at $30,000,000, and today they are capitalized at $45,000,000. During this period, President McMahon shows, but 100 looms were added and less than 16,000 spindels out of a total spindlage in that city of more than 3,500,000.

"The increased capitalization of nearly 50 per cent was secured through stock dividends, not one dollar coming out of the pockets of the stockholders, who, during most of this period, received in cash dividends enough dollars to nearly equal the 1916 capitalization."

In discussing shoddy material, President McMahon states that the operation of wool sorting, "so necessary for the production of first class cloths, is either entirely or nearly dispensed with, and the new process, called 'dumping,' substituted.

"This 'dumping' system is responsible, to a great degree, for the very poor grade of cloths produced in many mills. It has left an opening for the use of a greater amount of shoddy, and were it not for the improvement made on fulling and finishing machinery, the quality of the product could be seen by the naked eye. As it is, it looks good in the shop window, but its lack of value is not found out in all too many cases until it is on the back of the purchaser.

"It is this fraud that is responsible to a very great degree for existing conditions in the woolen trade. In worsteds, as in woolens, substitutes are used. In silk, substitutes are so numerous that the trade has decided to accept the name 'Rayon' for all artificial and fibre silks. The great consuming public has rebelled.

"Let us get away from the thought that the textile industry today is an 'infant industry,' and must be treated accordingly," said President McMahon. "Let us forget that the remedy quacks in the textile industry have been supplying it in the shape of tariff pills, have done the industry no material good, but, on the contrary, have added millions of dollars to the pockets of a few and placed a burden on our people.

"The textile industry in all its branches can compete with the world if those who control it would be satisfied with a square, honest return in the shape of dividends for the amount invested."

FREE EXPRESSION URGED BY TEACHERS

Chicago, April 4.—"An atmosphere of freedom," rather than rigid caste systems in our public schools is necessary, declares the Federation of Women High School Teachers in commenting on a new system of counsel in the Chicago public schools. Members of the board of education suggest the abandonment of the old system of general conferences, to be replaced by one that is narrowed to the next superior.

"A system in which each group is restricted to contact with a single group, that one just above it, is a caste system and is deadening," the teachers say.

The teachers do not urge that their opinions are to be in any degree mandatory, "but that their experience and ideas will, perhaps, lead to valuable suggestions and that such participation will so enhance the dignity of the teacher that it will elevate the work of teaching.

"American teachers are rightly expected to educate young people to take their places in the community as intelligent, public-spirited citizens in a self-governing republic," these organized teachers say. "This demand upon the teachers presents a curious anomaly. The teachers who are expected to train others in a self-governing society are not themselves given in their occupation the opportunity to exercise self-government.

"The American public school system is an autocratic one in the handling of teachers. Conformity is a quality much desired in teachers. In many cities, teachers lessen their chances for advancement by the expression of opinions in variance with those of the administration. Young teachers thus mature in an atmosphere of intellectual restraint and learn to suppress expression of opinion. The typical school mind in America, therefore, is not flexible, not sensitive to opportunities for professional improvement, but timid, clinging to what is, rather than eager to lay hold of and test the promising new.

"The federation would by no means be considered as standing for mere obstructionism, but for an atmosphere of freedom, of thought and testing."

"STAND-IN" POLICY IS PROVEN FAILURE

Washington, April 4.—The postoffice department has reinstated six supervisory officials who were suspended three months ago in connection with their efforts to influence passage of the postal wage bill. They employed a subordinate clerk on one of the committees. He was supposed to aid in the passage of the bill, though no one has explained how this was to be accomplished.

Prior to the suspension of these men, high officials of the postoffice department attempted to create the impression that the accused were connected with and spoke for the postal employes' unions. The public was not told that the men were recognized favorites of the department and spoke for only a small group of higher paid officials. For a few days the postoffice department's publicity threatened to defeat the wage bill.

When the attempt to connect trade unionists with this irregularity failed, the six men were suspended, and now they are quietly reinstated.

"That is what workers get when they try to improve conditions through a 'stand-in' policy," said an officer of one of the recognized trade unions.

"These reinstated officials are in an atmosphere of politics, fixing and bureaucracy, just as are other postal employes, but the six men believed they could do what their superiors do. In private employment they would be placed in the boss group. They believed that a tricky policy would win, and that they could get something by secretly playing the game of a 'fixer.' They prided themselves on having no connection with their organized subordinates who won the wage increase after making an open, manly fight."

LAME DUCK REWARDED; DIAL GETS PUNY JOB

Washington, April 4.—Former Senator Dial, who made it possible for the senate to uphold the president's veto of the first postal wage increase, has been appointed by the president as a member of the Muscle Shoals commission. The pay is $30 a day and expenses for a few months. Dial was the only member of the minority party who upheld the veto.

The new commission, it is stated, will examine into and report to the president the most practical method of utilizing the Muscle Shoals facilities.

The other members of the commission are former Congressman McKenzie of Illinois, Prof. Harry A. Curtis of Yale university, William McClellan of New York city and Russell F. Bower of the American farm bureau federation.

Creation of the commission follows the senate's rejection of a proposal to turn Muscle Shoals over to private interests. Dial favored this plan.

COMPANY "UNION" DEFENDS LONG HOURS

St. Paul, Minn., April 4.—Roundhouse laborers employed by the Great Northern railroad are forced to accept a 10-hour day, though the railroad labor board has ruled that these workers shall be paid time and one-half after eight hours. The railroad management ignores this decision, and is defended by its company "union."

At the recent convention of the company "union" in this city, the roundhouse workers were denied representation. Then they asked that their grievances be considered, but this, too, was ignored.

Trade unionists declare that every working rule is violated by the company whenever it finds such course profitable. The company "union" invariably defends or excuses such action. It is charged that certain officials of the fake union have served the Great Northern as undercover men.

FORD'S SURPLUS GROWS

Boston, April 4.—A statement filed by the Ford motor company with the Massachusetts secretary of state shows that the surplus last year increased $100,400,000. The present surplus is $542,476,496, as against $442,041,081, the previous fiscal year.

It is estimated that Ford made an average profit of $47 on every car, truck and tractor he sold last year. This compares with a $37 profit in 1923.

HOW PROFITS ARE HIDDEN

New York, April 4.—The main reason why corporations split up high priced shares of stock is to disguise profits, says the Magazine of Wall Street. Another reason for "this form of melon cutting" is to attract buyers who can not afford high-priced stocks.

By issuing a larger number of stocks, thereby reducing the price, profits can be spread over a large area without attracting general attention.

STEEL WORKERS TO MEET

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 4.—The fiftieth annual convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers will convene in this city Tuesday morning, April 7. Local members of the amalgamated are working with the international officers to fittingly observe this golden anniversary.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR

Jefferson City, Mo., April 4.—Governor Baker has notified Kansas City business men he agrees with them that state prisoners should not be used in the manufacture of garments, shoes, brooms and other commodities in competition with free labor.

It is stated that the governor is considering plans to have the prisoners work on the prison farms in this city. Hundreds of acres of idle land could produce crops and dairy products to supply state institutions. The large amount of rock on some of this land could be crushed and used on state roads.

OPPOSE WAGE CUT

Memphis, Tenn., April 4.—The local street car company has withdrawn its demand for wage reductions, following a conference with Mayor Paine. The city executive let the company officials understand that in view of present living costs wage cuts are out of the question.

SAFETY EDICT OPPOSED

New York, April 4.—The Delaware & Hudson railroad has asked the federal district court to enjoin the interstate commerce commission from forcing the installation of automatic safety devices on the company's passenger trains. A number of other railroads have joined in this attempt to block the commission's long fight in the interest of safety.

WILL RULE BY CAUCUS CONTROL LAWMAKERS?

Washington, April 4.—Will the congress that convenes next December witness a revival of Cannonism in the house of representatives?

In the last congress progressive members of the house broke the power of the autocratic committee on rules, whose chairman would stick a report in his pocket and forget the interment. Under this system the consideration of social legislation was impossible.

This method of stifling the popular will was carried to such lengths several years ago that a national campaign was waged against "Cannonism," and the system was discarded. Later, it was silently fastened on the house, to be again rejected by the last congress.

It is now whispered that with independence rife in the senate, "Cannonism" will be established in the house, and the people must renew their fight for popular rule.

LAWMAKERS AWAKENED

Denver, Colo., April 4.—State legislators are angry at the Colorado child ratification committee, composed of citizens who favor approval of the federal child labor amendment.

The lawmakers are "considering" the question. They have "considered" it so long they believed the people had forgotten the matter. Now they are rudely awakened by a publicity campaign that has been launched by the ratification committee. The lawmakers are reminded that both parties favored the amendment last fall, and that their sleep period is at an end.

GEORGE W. PRING IS DEAD

Kansas City, Kan., April 4.—George W. Pring, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, died in this city after a lengthy illness. He was active in the railroad shop trades and served as vice president of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department. He also served on adjustment board No. 2 of the railroad labor board.

EXCESS LABOR IN OIL TOWN

Tulsa, Okla., April 4.—Organized workers are protesting against newspaper publicity that there is a scarcity of labor in this city.

DESERTED IN THE WINTER OF LIFE

By L. D. BLAND

Editor The Union Leader, Chicago

Circuit Judge Ryner has ruled that the Armour packing plant, which absorbed the Morris packing plant, may discontinue the pension plan of the latter concern.

There is a wonderful lesson to the workers in this case, if they will heed it. Here were 3,500 employes who were led to believe if they remained in the service of their employer until they were no longer fit for work, and gave the best that was in them for the advancement of their employer's business, content with the conditions the employer planned for them, they would be assured a competence in their winter of life. But sad to relate they were deceived. The cold truth hits them too late to recover from the blow and make a fresh start. Industry sapped their vigorous years and deserted them in old age.

The Morris employes depended upon the employer instead of themselves. They sacrificed in wage rates and labor conditions; they stuck to their jobs when they could have bettered themselves elsewhere, all because they had been promised a pension when they became old. The employer went out of business and the pension ceased. All the employes' years of sacrifice have gone for naught, though the business still goes on. Since the Armour-Morris merger took place the company has saved $10,000,000 a year in operating expenses, but the pensioners are out in the cold.

Every company pension plan in this country is subject to the same finish as the Morris plan. The employer is in absolute control, and may abolish the pension plan at any time. If so disposed, the employer may discharge employes and disqualify them from participating in a pension fund. The employer may sell out his business and the new owner would not be obligated to continue the pension, just what happened in the Morris case. The employes have no redress, because the pension arrangement is held to be a voluntary gift and not a contract.

The Morris case is but another example of the helplessness of employes who fail to promote their welfare through their own organizations.

If it hasn't dawned on the Morris employes before, it surely has now, that trade union organization is the only hope for the workers to establish genuine benefits for themselves.

OWNERS SEEK ALIBI FOR MINE DISASTER

Fairmont, W. Va., April 4.—The county prosecutor has ordered the release of four men who were arrested following the explosion at the Barrackville mine when 33 miners lost their lives.

The public press and the mine operators would create the belief that a bomb was placed in this non-union mine, though the property is surrounded by armed guards and is enclosed in a barricade. One investigator declared that a three-day-old chick could not get through the barricade and the guards.

Peddlers of the bomb story make no reference to the great volume of gas in the mine which drove back rescuing parties. The unionists ask if a bomb causes gas, and if the bomb story is not the old familiar alibi to escape responsibility.

In discussing the catastrophe the Charleston Mail thunders:

"If a criminal hand touched off the blast, every resource of the state should be used in running down the guilty party or parties and bringing upon them the full penalty for deliberate, cold-blooded murder."

The West Virginia Federationist makes the following reply to this editorial:

"To this we agree. But if, on the other hand, it is found that the fan had not been operating for 15 hours or any other violation of the mining laws by the operating company caused the disaster, then the same course should be pursued, as suggested by the Mail. The result is identical and the crime the same."

PEONAGE IN SOUTH RESISTED BY LABOR

Memphis, Tenn., April 4.—If a bill introduced in the state legislature becomes a law, peonage will be legalized in Tennessee.

The proposal was introduced by Representative Ruffin. It declares that it is a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment for any employe or farmer working on shares, to violate his contract.

The bill makes no reference to violation of any contract by the employer. Section 1 of this vicious proposal reads:

"That any employe, laborer, servant, renter or share-cropper who wilfully breaches a written contract between employer and employe, laborer, servant, renter or share-cropper, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The penalty is a fine of not less than $20 and not more than $50, together with imprisonment in the county jail or sentenced to hard labor for the county for not more than three months.

Organized labor is opposing this attempt to enslave the unorganized agricultural workers and small farmers who operate on the share basis.

LAND FRAUDS EXPOSED

Washington, April 4.—The department of agriculture warns the public against land companies operating in the great lakes states. These concerns, the department says, have employed sales methods which border very close to fraud.

Colonization companies have an excessive overhead and are attracting settlers who are not of the highest type, either in experience or financial capacity.

FINED AFTER FOUR YEARS

Alexandria, Va., April 4.—The interurban Washington & Old Dominion railway company was fined $500 in the local district court for violating the nine-hour work law. The case has been pending four years.

MEN MUST THINK, SAYS EDUCATOR

Princeton, N. J., April 4.—Men must do their own thinking and not blindly accept what currently passes as "public opinion," said President John Grier Hibben of Princeton university, in urging the need for developing initiative and independent thought in America.

"There is a tendency in American life," he said, "to accept general manifestations of public opinion as final, to seek to discern what seem to be the fashion of the day in thought and then to swim with their currents. The majority is apparently willing to accept what seems to be prevailing opinion and to conform to it, on the theory that the easiest way is the best way. That may be comfortable, but it is not progressive. It does not develop leadership.

"If American institutions are to progress, we must have those willing to do their own thinking and to contend for the product of their thinking. The colleges have their responsibility to furnish their quota of men of this type.

"In politics and in public life we see the influence of mental inertia. Ninety-nine men out of a hundred are in politics what their fathers were. They give no more original thought to their country's problems than that. What is needed in politics today is fresh investigation and new evaluation, rather than that the body of the citizens should go along unreasoningly in the party line that has been laid out for them by forgotten ancestors."

TEAPOT DOME CASE ENDS; ACCUSED DID NOT TESTIFY

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 4.—Argument in the Teapot Dome leasing case closed in the local federal court, and decision now rests with Judge T. Blake Kennedy. It is believed the court will consider the question for several weeks.

The defense insisted that corruption was not proven when Fall and Denby leased Teapot Dome to the Mammoth oil company, controlled by Sinclair. The government claimed that Fall and Denby, secretary of the interior and secretary of the navy, had no authority to make the lease.

Sinclair and Fall invoked their constitutional right and refused to testify on the ground that it might incriminate them.

Several captains of industry whom the government considered important witnesses for the prosecution, disappeared. One of these, Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of the Standard oil company of Indiana, arrived in New York from South America one day after the case closed. Mr. Stewart expressed great surprise that he was sought by the government.

COSSACK BILL DEFEATED

Columbus, Ohio, April 4.—The state house of representatives defeated the Liles state highway police bill by a vote of 64 to 43. The Ohio state federation of labor opposed this attempt to establish cossacks under the plea of a state road patrol. The cossacks would have general police powers.

MINE FATALITIES INCREASE

Washington, April 4.—There were 184 men killed in and around coal mines of the country during February, according to the United States bureau of mines. The fatality rate was 3.99 deaths per million tons of coal produced, as against 2.23 fatalities per million tons during the same period last year.

TO PROBE MOVIE INDUSTRY

Los Angeles, Calif., April 4.—The state department of labor will investigate the moving picture industry of southern California, following a preliminary report that 50,000 people earn uncertain pay and are being victimized by employment agencies.

U. S. EMPLOYES URGE UNIFORM WORK PLAN

Washington, April 4.—Standardization of working conditions among government employes was urged at a meeting of the executive council of the National Federation of Federal Employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L. The unionists recommended that a personnel manager be employed by the government.

These federal employes show how they are bound by red tape and conflicting rules that each bureau chief evolves, according to his mood and not the needs of employes. There is no co-ordination between departments, and administrative officials, in many instances, are little czars in their own realm.

The manner of granting annual and sick leaves illustrates the conflicting regulations. Under the law these leaves are optional with the department executive or chief. Some departments give these leaves, and others do not. Ratings, classifications and efficiency standards are also involved in a hodge-podge of red tape and favoritism which discourages workers who resent being subject to the whim of a superior, rather than assured of their rights.

The executive council of the federation instructed President Luther C. Steward to present their views to the chairmen of the senate and house committees on civil service.

SHIPPING MONOPOLY PROPOSED ON PACIFIC

Washington, April 4.—The Dollar shipping interests, together with Herbert Fleischhacker, San Francisco banker, are seeking a monopoly of American shipping on the Pacific ocean, said former Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, who represents the Pacific mail company in its bid for five government steamships.

Senator Chamberlain told the shipping board he spoke from personal knowledge. He said that he attended a dinner in this city given by Fleischhacker several years ago, when the formation of a $30,000,000 corporation to take over all government tonnage on the Pacific was discussed.

The present plan is to rejuvenate the scheme that would drive off the seas practically everybody else in the business, Mr. Chamberlain said.

The shipping board rejected the Pacific Mail offer and by a 4-to-3 vote sold five ships to the Dollar company for $5,625,000. The minority members of the board protested that the ships were being sold for $25,000,000 less than their original cost and $15,000,000 less than it would cost to build them at this time. Commissioners Plummer, Thompson and Benson opposed the sale.

UNEMPLOYMENT PLAN ADOPTED BY UNIONISTS

Chicago, April 4.—Organized ladies' garment workers have established an unemployment fund along lines similar to New York employers and unionists in this industry. The local manufacturers will contribute 1½ per cent of their pay roll and the employes ½ per cent of their earnings. A board will supervise the fund.

The agreement also includes wage increases. Button sewers are advanced from $20.50 a week to $24, and edge basters and fur sewers from $31 to $35.

HAY FEVER IS COSTLY

Washington, April 4.—Forty-five per cent of the losses to business because of disease is due to hay fever and the common cold, according to the United States public service. Surgeon General Cumming is arranging a campaign against this affliction.

CLAY WORKERS GAIN

Canton, Ill., April 4.—Clay workers at this place have secured wage increases and a new contract. General President Frank Kasten assisted in the negotiations. He reports that organized brick and clay workers have secured new agreements throughout Illinois and adjacent states.